

HUTCHISON'S PATENT MANUAL SAW FRAMES.

We have ourselves had some special experience in the matter of stone sawing, and could not avoid regarding Mr. Hutchison's terms of advertisement with much incredulity, wherein he speaks of a considerable saving over steam power. However, we have been convinced by inspection, and we recommend every builder to whom such things are of consequence (and to whom are they not?) to visit Mr. Hutchison's wharf, and inspect also for himself. Any labourer may drive the saws, and adjust them for cutting to the sixteenth of an inch, and the labour is comparative light. At first sight, there is a cumbrousness of appearance about the frames that gives an impression to the contrary; but we were surprised on trial of one frame set in a block of marble about 9 feet long, with the very easy movement; and, again, to see an aged workman driving, with apparent ease to himself, a pair of saw-plates through another block of marble. The saw-frame is made to work within the groove of a pair of rails, which rails may be adjusted laterally, or up and down, to suit any size of block, or any cutting; and the saw-frame being also balanced, leaves nothing for the workman but a moderate amount of exertion in throwing it backwards and forwards, he being considerably assisted by the draught of the balance rope. To masons of moderate extent of working, this saw-frame will be a great acquisition; and to builders who may set it up (it being, with the shed and all, of a portable character) on the site of any work they may be engaged in, and command at any time the workmen to drive the saws, it will be conspicuously valuable. As Mr. Hutchison says, it is brought into direct and advantageous competition with steam, and in many respects is far superior to it, as it enables a person at any time to set out a slab according to the emergency of any particular time or order.

Mr. Hutchison has an immense stock of Pyrenean coloured-marbles of great beauty and value, which this invention enables him to bring into the market with effect, steam-sawing being a serious tax upon the moderate first cost of the material; but he is prepared to grant licences for the use of his patent saw-frame, to all those who may desire to avail themselves of its use. We are quite sure that many will do so, much to their benefit and comfort.

Correspondence.

TAVRO MARKET COMPETITION.

SIR.—I observe in your paper of Saturday last, that the subject of the Tavo Market Competition is still calling forth remarks from several of your correspondents; and that something like an inkling of the truth is by degrees being elicited with respect to the manner in which the decision of the committee was formed in favour of the successful candidates.

It is not assuming too much to say that these latter gentlemen, being professionally engaged in the erection of a similar building in the neighbourhood, were fortunately enabled, at little outlay, to be on the spot, both to ascertain in the first place among their friends what might really be required and meant by the committee and their instructions, and then ultimately to explain to advantage their own view and intentions when their designs were sent in. We may also assume that like privileges would have been accessible to any of the other competitors who might have thought it worth while to incur certain outlay of time and expense, at the risk of obtaining a better chance of either of the handsome premiums offered. But surely the committee would have prevented all cavil at their conduct had they intimated in their circulars that personal explanation of the designs (certainly not as yet a usual occurrence in open competitions) would be allowed if desired by the candidates. We are all well aware of the great advantages that a *visu et vivo* explanation affords to all parties interested; a few words in reply to a question, or a doubt raised perhaps in error, nay, perhaps explanatory of some point opposed to an instruction, then shown to be incorrect, may rescue a plan of merit from undeserved condemnation; and surely nobody can so well point out and explain the various bearings and connection of the design in all its details of plans, elevation, and section, as the author.

the architects for availing themselves of their fortunate position, but certainly the committee, as judges, have laid themselves open to the suspicion of partiality, by affording these architects great advantages, which the other competitors at a distance could never have contemplated, nor in any case have availed themselves of without additional expenditure of time and money.

It would be but fair, if in all similar cases of competition it were clearly stated in the instructions that such personal explanation of the designs would or would not be permitted; then, if they were allowed, architects at a distance would most likely consider that the competition would be best left to those residing in the neighbourhood, or already professionally employed there, as these latter would be enabled to attend without the drawback of loss of time and money, to which the former must necessarily be subjected. And in such case, previous notice for personal explanation of the designs when submitted, might not unfairly be regarded as expressing personal and influential communications of no small import, given to aid the production of such drawings as might meet the views and wishes of the committee; or, at any rate, were it plainly stated beforehand that such explanation would be allowed, those who did not think fit to avail themselves of it, would have no just grounds for *ex post facto* complaint regarding it.

The printed advertisement in the newspapers, and the paper of instructions for the building in question, mention only one hall, thus: "a town hall and offices adapted to a court of justice;" but a subsequent printed notice, of the postponement of the day for receiving the design, certainly mentions halls in the plural number. This may be a clerical or typical error; but the instructions mention the market air in its collective sense, and then specifically divided into various markets for the different articles and commodities enumerated, and the town hall is explicitly stated to contain only one court for various purposes, combining, in fact, a court of justice and a county, squire, or moot hall (as it is differently designated in various parts of England) in one and the same large apartment. Now, if in the design approved and adopted (after its merits were previously explained) there be any other hall assigned and adapted to purposes peculiar to the Stannaries of Cornwall, distinct and apart from the town hall above described (and the truth in this respect can soon be ascertained), then, something more than the suspicion of intentional ambiguity mentioned in "Scries's" letter may fairly be expressed, and the delay complained of in the selection of the drawings may be, without much difficulty, satisfactorily accounted for.

If those of your readers who have experienced this delay would forward to you the result of their inquiries and observations, you would soon be enabled to throw the new light on this hitherto somewhat obscure subject promised in your excellent journal.

The Committee of the Hospital for Consumption, &c., having invited a competition, in which they very much hampered the proceedings of the competitors by requiring them to adapt a new hospital as an adjunct to an old villa residence (and this operation was to be performed *piece-meal*), now find that they are obliged to nullify all their proceedings, and express their intention of looking out for an entirely new site. Perhaps they might in justice give those who competed under the previous disadvantage, another chance in a fairer field for the exercise of their ingenuity?

I am, Sir, your constant reader,
Friday, December 1, 1843.

SIR.—Allow me to congratulate you on the able manner in which your paper THE BUILDER is conducted, by showing favour to no particular party, but inviting discussion from all parties of every denomination of profession or trade. On such principles, Sir Editor, a weekly journal like yours is calculated to enlighten the working man; it makes him think of his position in society, it gives him new ideas, he feels that he has been neglecting that precious time which he has had for improvement, and he now clearly perceives his error. The working man is then a valuable member of society, he belongs to some institution, and makes good use of the time which Providence has given him. Every master ought to have several copies of your paper, and distribute them amongst his workmen; by so doing, he would render his men an essential service, and would have better and steadier workmen; because by reading, they would improve themselves in their different trades. By inserting these few remarks in your valuable journal, you will oblige.

Sir, yours obediently,
W. BACON Jones

NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE

SIR.—In your valuable paper of last week, I perceive that a correspondent signing himself "Spectator," has made some curious remarks upon the appearance of the stone-work to the Royal Exchange. He describes it as, like Joseph's coat, "of many colours." There may be right; not having seen Joseph's coat, it is impossible for me to know of what hues it appeared. The various plans for remedying this aspect are excellent in their way, but one thing I would beg of him to enlighten the public upon, and that is, how the stecon is to be fixed to the Portland stone; would he recommend screws or nails, or whether it would be better to glue it on? The other remedy, patience, seems to be a portion of your correspondent's nature totally omitted; and again, had he been a practical man, he would have known that the surface of the work is now covered with stone-dust, dirt, &c., and will remain so until the final clearing down of the work.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
R. C. H.

SIR.—I find in page 521 of THE BUILDER, a "Design for a Shooting and Fishing Lodge," by "C. E. D." Being aware that you freely offer your pages for the criticism of any of your correspondents, and that one of your principal aims is to excite reasoning among them, I am inclined to offer some remarks on the design before mentioned, and beg the favour of your inserting the following:—

If "C. E. D." had studied his design a little more, he would have been aware how woefully deficient it is both in comfort and convenience. There is no such thing as a kennel for the necessary dogs, but one pantry for game and fish, instead of two, no apartments for the necessary non-servants. And then, look at the conveniences for gentlemen; in case of a wet day, there is nothing but a dining-room and an awkward little parlour: what does he think the proprietor would say to this, to have constantly to sit in an atmosphere redolent with the disagreeable smell of cooked meat, or be berled in a small parlour, where it would be almost an impossibility to get a glimpse through the window, besides the dining-room being, as I fear it would be, deficient in light? Then let "C. E. D." look at the chamber plan, with eight bed-rooms, four out of that number being little better than closets, and these for a number of gentlemen, the house-keeper, and family, the requisite male and female servants, and not a single dressing-room to either. I should like to know what "C. E. D." thinks would be the feelings of a gentleman coming home from shooting or fishing, with his clothes in a soiled or nearly filthy state, being ushered into a bed-room with his bed covering nearly its whole extent. Indeed, "C. E. D." I think, would find that in the sporting season his bed-room would not be in such request as he imagines, for it would be any thing but sport to have to pass a night in such a miserable closet.

But now for the elevation; what a mass of absurdity! A person with a grain of common sense would suppose that the entrance is generally the main feature to a building; but no, "C. E. D." reverses the order of things, instead of a door we have a blank, whose heavy cornice and key-stone, without the least harmony to any other part of the design, seems to threaten danger to any mortal who should have courage enough to approach it. Then on one side a square-headed casement in opposition to the circular doorway on the other; to the left, we behold a square projection, whose heavy, unmeaning attempts at columns, without any support beneath, and those pretty Gothic battlements at top, astride a triangular piece of absurdity (with a great column in front) at the bottom. I should like to know why "C. E. D." could not have carried it square all the way up instead of threatening its base with instant ruin. And then the other wing, three columns on stilts, with an immense entablature above and without the least tie to the main building; why could not the cornice at the top of the main building have been continued right along, instead of looking as though the wing had sunk two or three feet below its proper level? But I am afraid I am trespassing too far on your valuable pages, and, therefore, must draw to a close with reminding "C. E. D." that if he was to study more, and design buildings of which he had some knowledge of their intended use, he would avoid the many blunders and incongruities which so strongly mark his designs; and I am sure no person of taste would expend the half of 900*l.* on such a comfortable and tasteless design. I write these remarks without the least ill-will to "C. E. D.," having for my object more to expose bad taste to the readers of THE BUILDER, and to warn "C. E. D." of errors which in after designs he may avoid himself. I shall be most happy to have these remarks criticised by "C. E. D." or any of your correspondents.

In the course of two or three weeks, I intend to send you a design for the same thing, which I think will be far more comfortable and